

S-448  
William Wilson House  
Upper Hill  
Private

c. 1880-90

The William Wilson house is significant architecturally and historically as one of the few documented dwellings erected by a former free black resident of Upper Hill, once known as "Upper Freetown," or "Freetown Hill." William Wilson is recorded in the Somerset County land records as a free negro, abbreviated "F.N." in the 1855 transfer of this lot of land. Evidently a young man at the time of the transfer, William Wilson retained title to this property until his death around 1923. The house and lot remained in Wilson family hands until October 1984, when Evelyn Wilson sold the family house to Glenn and Madge Lowe.

The two-and-a-half story frame house that stands on this lot dates around 1880 and is similar to many in the Upper Hill community. Distinguished by a cross gable, the center hall frame dwelling is trimmed with wide corner pilaster features small dentil blocks that suggest a reference to classical capitals. The single-pile frame structure is raised on a high brick pier foundation, and the main block is extended to the rear by a two-story kitchen wing.

## HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: William Wilson House

MHT Inventory Number: S-448

### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Development Period(s):  
INDUSTRIAL/URBAN DOMINANCE  
1870-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s):  
Single-family dwelling

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. S-448  
Magi No.  
DOE ☐yes ☐no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic WILLIAM WILSON HOUSE

and/or common GLENN LOWE HOUSE

## 2. Location

street & number 8333 Upper Hill Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Upper Hill ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Glenn and Madge Lowe

street & number 8333 Upper Hill Road telephone no.:

city, town Upper Hill state and zip code MD 21868

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Clerk of Court liber 347

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio 581

city, town Princess Anne state Md 21853

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. S-448

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Historically identified as the William Wilson house, and presently known as the Glenn Lowe house, this two-and-a-half story, cross-gabled frame dwelling stands at 8333 Upper Hill Road in the community of Upper Hill, Somerset County, Maryland. The house faces west with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1880-90, this two-and-a-half story, three-bay frame house is supported on a raised brick pier foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with plain weatherboard siding. The steeply pitched cross gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Extending to the rear of the main block is a two-story, one-room plan kitchen wing.

The west (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center, sidelighted entrance flanked by two-over-two sash windows. The plain weatherboard siding meets wide pilasters at each corner. Small dentil-like moldings serve as capital details. The second floor is lighted by three evenly placed two-over-two sash windows, and cross gable is pierced by a segmental arched two-pane attic window. Rising through the center of the house are two corbelled cap brick chimneys.

The north and south gable ends are pierced by single two-over-two sash windows on each floor. The plain window surrounds are unusually treated with a slightly extended lintel that flares outward beyond the outside edge of the side trim. The attic is lighted by a segmentally arched two-pane window. The gable ends are finished with extended eaves and boxed soffits.

The two-story, two-bay kitchen wing extends eastward from the rear wall of the main block. The kitchen wing is enlarged by a single story gable roofed wing on the northeast corner and a shed roofed porch is attached to the south and east sides. An interior end brick stove chimney rises through the gable end.

The interior was not seen.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. S-448

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The William Wilson house is a significant architecturally and historically as one of the few documented dwellings erected by a former free black resident of Upper Hill, formerly known as "Upper Freetown," or "Freetown Hill." William Wilson is recorded in the Somerset County land records as a free negro, abbreviated "F.N." in the 1855 transfer of this lot of land. (Somerset County Land Record, LW 3/400) Evidently a young man at the time of the transfer, William Wilson retained title to this property until his death around 1923. (Somerset County Land Record, 87/204) The house and lot remained in Wilson family hands until October 1984, when Evelyn Wilson sold the family house to Glenn and Madge Lowe. (Somerset County Land Record, 347/581)

The two-and-a-half story frame house that stands on this lot dates around 1880 and is similar to many in the Upper Hill community. Distinguished by a cross gable, the center hall frame dwelling is trimmed with wide corner pilaster features small dentil blocks that suggest a reference to classical capitals. The single-pile frame structure is raised on a high brick pier foundation, and the main block is extended to the rear by a two-story kitchen wing.



S-448  
WILLIAM WILSON HOUSE  
8333 Upper Hill Road  
Upper Hill, Somerset County, Maryland  
Chain of title

347/581 Evelyn Wilson

to

10/23/1984 Glenn Leroy Lowe  
Madge M. Lowe  
1 acre

135/138 Herbert S. Wilson  
Antoinette H. Wilson

to

1/7/1946 Evelyn Wilson

87/204 Edward H. Wilson, Charles W. Wilson,  
Robert F. Wilson, Frederic A. Wilson, Parthenia  
Waters, Surviving heirs of the late  
William Wilson

to

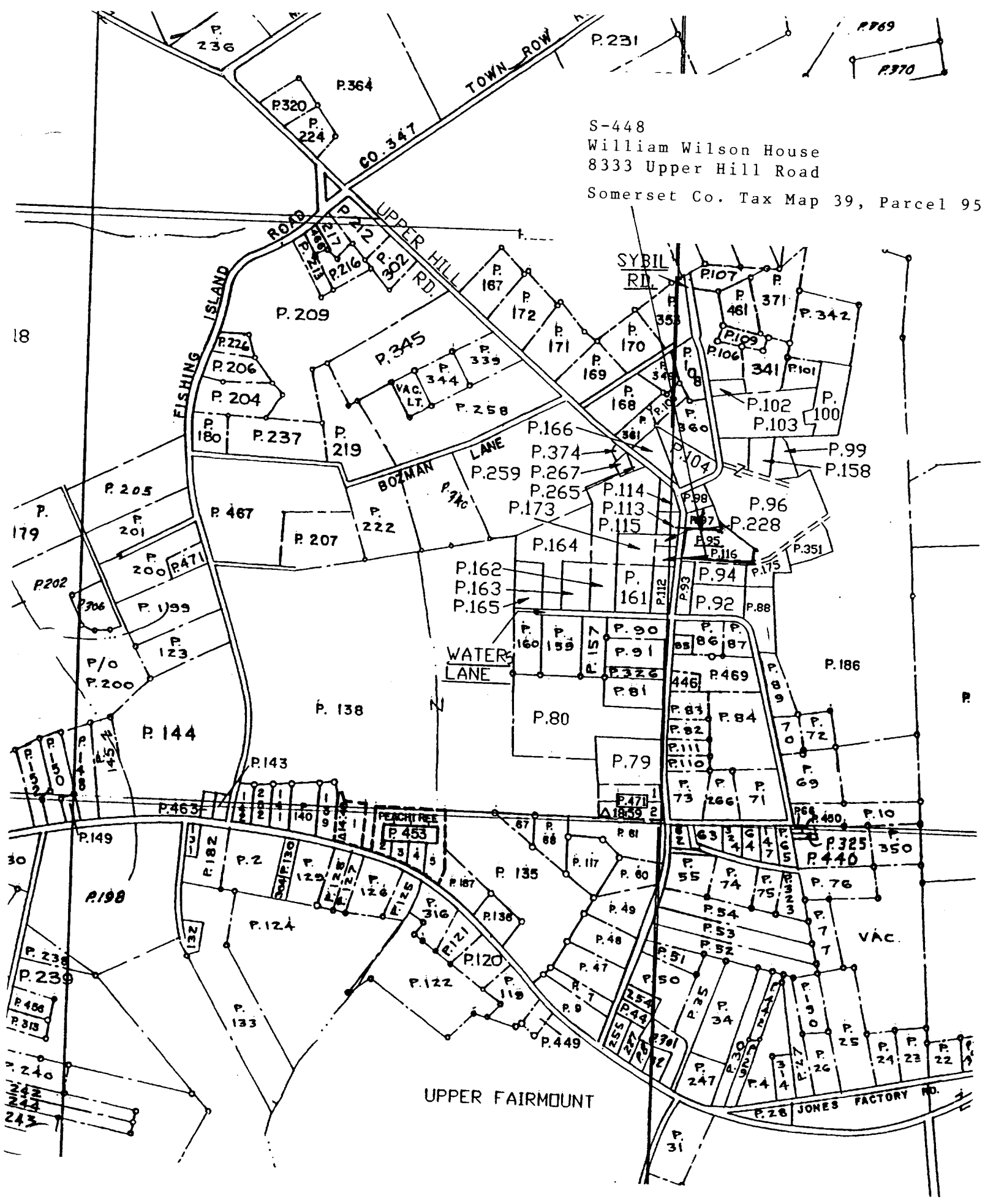
4/3/1923 Herbert S. Wilson

LW 3/400 Henry L. Dorsey  
Ann Dorsey

to

1/23/1855 William Wilson, F.N. (Free Negro)  
\$116.00 1 7/8 acre part of the real estate  
of Littleton Dorsey

18



S-448  
William Wilson House  
8333 Upper Hill Road  
Somerset Co. Tax Map 39, Parcel 95

UPPER FAIRMOUNT

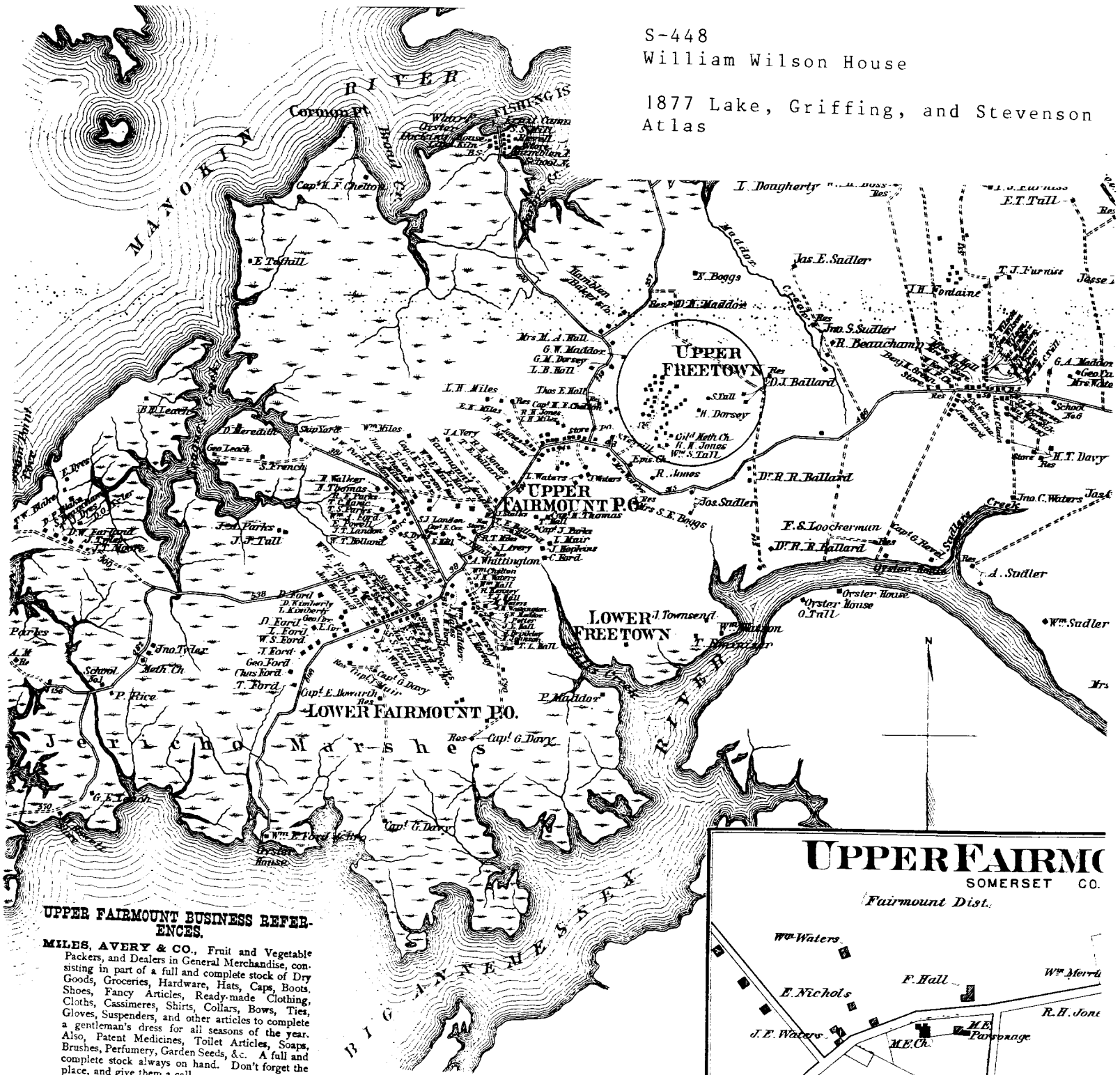
JONES FACTORY RD.



S-448

William Wilson House

1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson  
Atlas

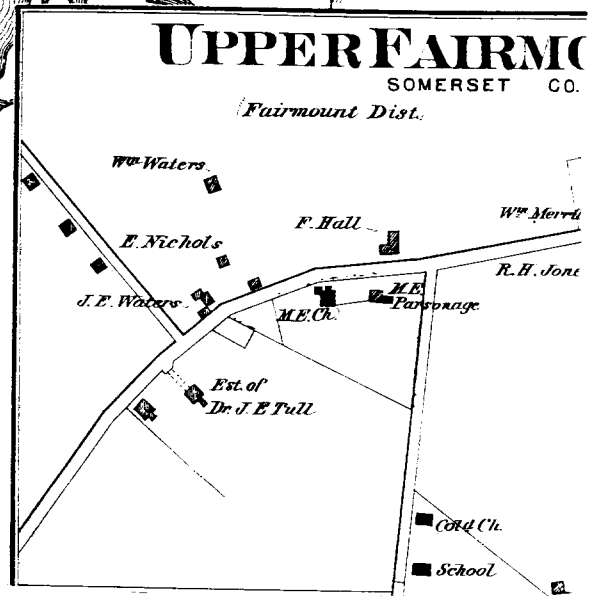


**UPPER FAIRMOUNT BUSINESS REFERENCES.**

- MILES, AVERY & CO.**, Fruit and Vegetable Packers, and Dealers in General Merchandise, consisting in part of a full and complete stock of Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Fancy Articles, Ready-made Clothing, Cloths, Cassimeres, Shirts, Collars, Bows, Ties, Gloves, Suspenders, and other articles to complete a gentleman's dress for all seasons of the year. Also, Patent Medicines, Toilet Articles, Soaps, Brushes, Perfumery, Garden Seeds, &c. A full and complete stock always on hand. Don't forget the place, and give them a call.
- W. B. FORD & BRO.**, Oyster Packers and Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Notions, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Hardware, and General Merchandise. Lower Fairmount.
- Dr. B. S. MILES**, Physician and Surgeon.
- B. K. GREEN**, Dealer in General Merchandise, such as Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Queensware, Hats, Boots, Shoes, Notions, and all goods suitable for a first-class country store. Westover.
- W. S. LONG**, Dealer in Hardware, Tinware, Groceries, Notions, &c. Store near Westover, Md.
- JOSEPH GILPIN** offers a fine farm of 410 acres for sale. Westover.

**FAIRMOUNT**

Dist. No. 6  
SOMERSET CO.



MARION QUADRAI

MARYLAND—SOMERS

7.5 MINUTE SERIES ORTHOPHOTO

5860 III NE  
(MONIE)

429

430

47°30"

431

1 150 000 FEET

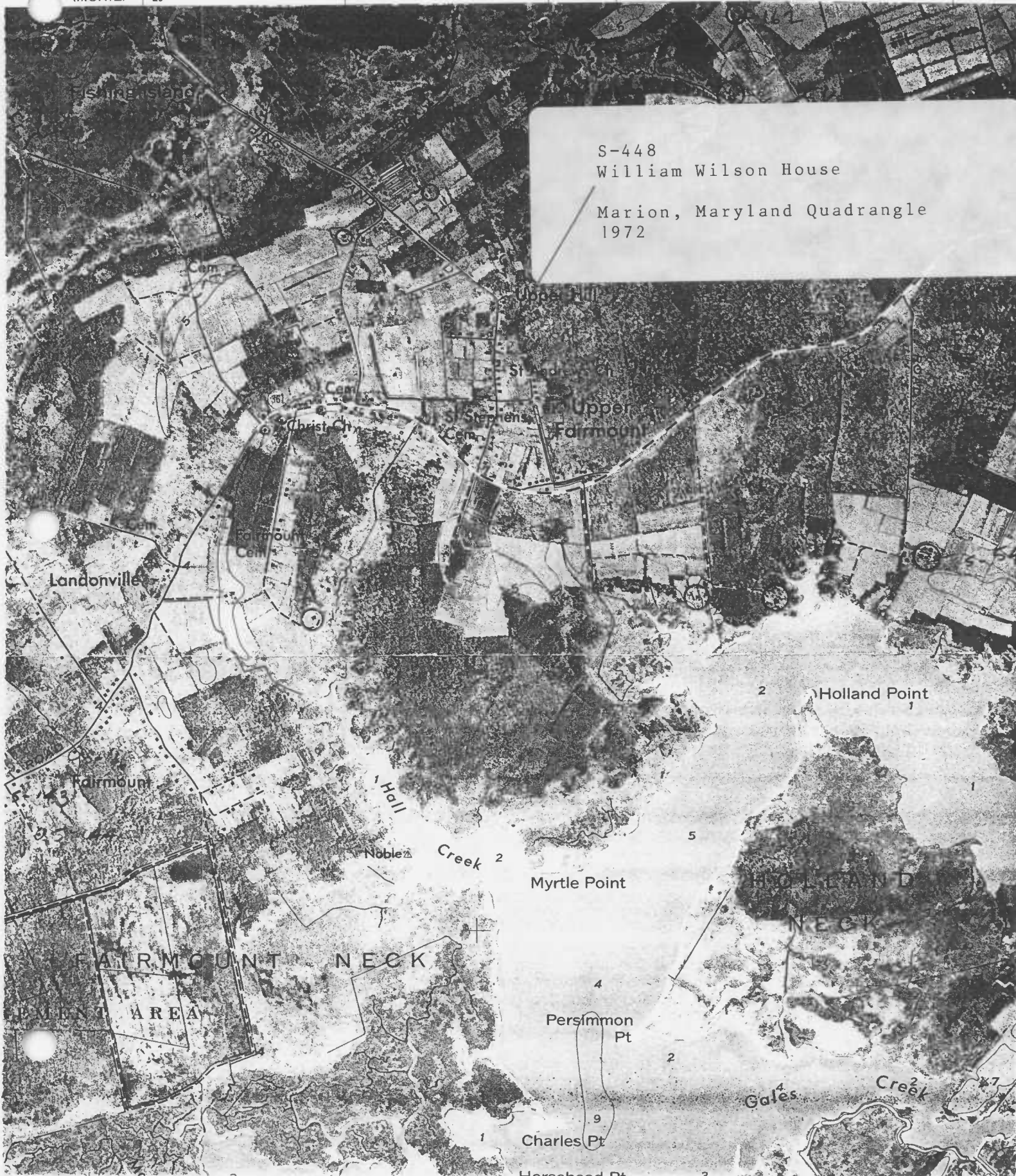
432

433

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William Wilson House

Marion, Maryland Quadrangle  
1972





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William Wilson House

Upper Hill, Somerset County, MD

Southwest Elevation

6/95, Paul Tourlet, Photographer

neg. / MD Historical Trust

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